



BATMAN:
DARK PATTERNS

13+
TEEN 9

BATMAN

DARK PATTERNS



WATTERS
SHERMAN
FARRELL

PAREIDOLIA PART THREE

WHEN YOUR BADGE TURNS **RED**,
THE MISSION BEGINS

JUSTICE LEAGUE L*|||RED|||* #1



© &™ DC.

ALL-STARS
SALADIN AHMED
AND CLAYTON HENRY
UNITE TO UNLEASH THE
LEAGUE'S DARKEST SECRET



ALL IN

AUGUST

*It's the smell of
the bleach that
wakes me.*



A comic book page featuring Batman. He is shown in a close-up, looking down at a large, bloody wound on his chest. The wound is a jagged, horizontal tear in his blue suit, revealing a dark, hollow space. Batman's face is partially visible, showing his mask and a grimace of pain. The background is dark and indistinct.

Though I'm now conscious,
I find my limbs have all
but stopped working.

A numbness flows
down my arms and
my legs...

...originating from
the bullet lodged
in my back.

It missed the spine.
I'm reasonably sure
it's embedded in one
of my floating ribs.

But it hurts. And
the simple truth is
I'm out of gas.

All this time patrolling the
streets of the Rookery.
Night after night.

Perhaps I convinced
myself I was more than
flesh and blood.

Stupid.

Magical
thinking.

THIS IS
ALL MAGICAL
THINKING.



Wuh?



YOU
IDIOTS. YOU DUG
UP AN OLD MURDER
VICTIM. STRIPPED
THE SKIN FROM
HER SKULL WITH
BLEACH.

THE
EXECUTION
STYLE OF THE
OLD RED
HOOD GANG.

TRYING TO
CONVINCE THE
NEIGHBORHOOD
THEY'VE
RETURNED...



...WHEN
THE TRUTH IS,
NO ONE IN THIS
NEIGHBORHOOD
HAS THOUGHT
ABOUT THE RED
HOOD GANG IN
DECADES.



THAT'S WHY
WE'RE GOING
TO REMIND
THEM.

"THE BODY WE LEFT
IN THE DRYER--THAT
OLD GIRLFRIEND OF
MINE WE DUG BACK UP...
IT WAS A **START**."

BUT WHEN
THE SECOND BODY
GIVEN THE RED HOOD
TREATMENT IS THE
BATMAN?

THE ROOKERY WAS
AN AWFUL PLACE WHEN
I GREW UP.

BUT
THEN WE WERE
CONSCRIPTED.
WHEN WE RETURNED
WE KNEW HOW TO
SHOOT.

AND WE
KNEW WHAT
FEAR WAS. HOW
TO INSTILL
RESPECT.

BEFORE
I SHUFFLE
OFF THIS
COIL...

...I'M
GOING TO
REMINDE
THEM.



NO ONE NOTICED.

YOU LEFT THE BODY IN A DRYER.

THEN YOU WAITED FOR SOMEONE TO FIND IT. YOU WAITED, AND YOU WAITED...



"...BUT NO ONE *EVER* NOTICED. NOT HERE IN THE ROOKERY. SO YOU WENT *BACK*. YOU WENT BACK AND BURNED THE LAUNDROMAT DOWN.

"A *SIGNAL FLARE*, SO SOMEONE WOULD INVESTIGATE.



EVEN THEN, I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO SHOWED UP.

WHAT'S ANOTHER FIRE IN GOTHAM, IN THIS DAY AND AGE?



YOU'RE *WRONG*.

THE ROOKERY IS TALKING ABOUT THEM--*US*--AGAIN!



GRANDPA... YOUR OXYGEN. YOU NEED YOUR OXYGEN.



"GRANDPA."



THIS IS
A FAMILY
THING.

YOU
RAISED THEM
ON STORIES OF
THE GANG.

**FISH
STORIES.**
EXAGGERATIONS
OF WHAT YOU AND
YOUR FRIENDS
USED TO GET
UP TO.

WHEN
THE TRUTH IS
THE ORIGINAL RED
HOODS WERE PETTY
CRIMINALS.

NOTHING
SPECIAL. NOTHING
MEMORABLE,
ESPECIALLY FOR
GOTHAM.

THE ONLY
REASON NO ONE IN
THE NEIGHBORHOOD
WOULD *GIVE YOU UP*
IS THEY HAVE NO IDEA
WHO YOU ARE OR
WHAT YOU'VE
DONE.

YOU'RE
NOTHING BUT
AN OLD *CORPSE*
DEFILER.

YOU--
hrn--oh,
YOU--



Hrnh!

GRANDPA!

HERE.
YOU NEED
TO SIT.

JAKE, GO
DOWNSTAIRS.

WHAT?!

THAT'S
BULL--

WE NEED A
LOOKOUT. IN
CASE ANYONE
COMES.

DO AS YOUR
BROTHER SAYS,
JAKE. GOOD
BOY.

GOOD
MOVE.

HE'S A
SENSITIVE KID,
ISN'T HE?

AND WHAT
YOU'RE ABOUT
TO TRY AND DO,
IT'S NOT EASY
TO WATCH.



THE WOMAN
YOU DUG UP HAD
BEEN DOWN IN
THE DIRT FOR
DECADES.



TELL ME,
"GRANDPA,"
WHAT WAS HER
NAME?

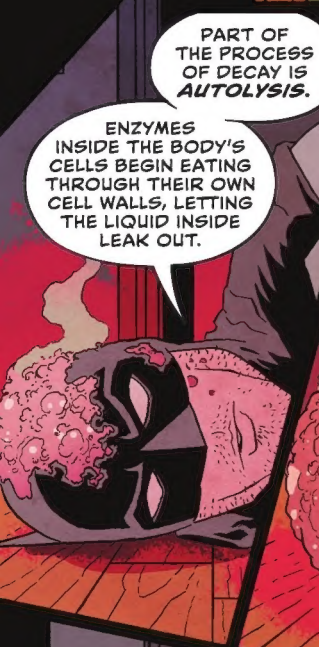


PART OF
THE PROCESS
OF DECAY IS
AUTOLYSIS.

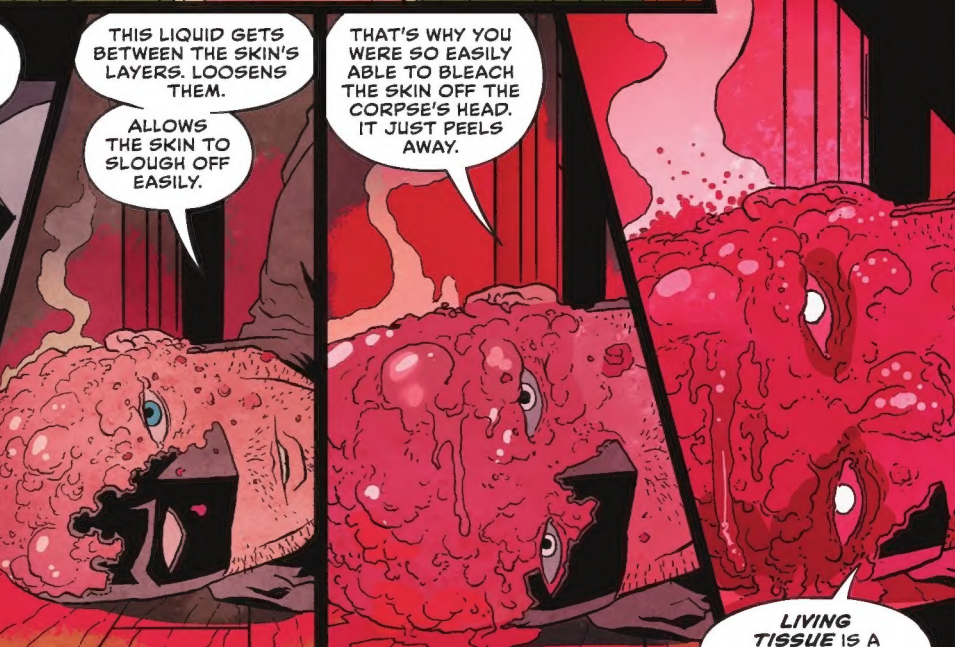
THIS LIQUID GETS
BETWEEN THE SKIN'S
LAYERS. LOOSENS
THEM.

ALLOWS
THE SKIN TO
SLOUGH OFF
EASILY.

THAT'S WHY YOU
WERE SO EASILY
ABLE TO BLEACH
THE SKIN OFF THE
CORPSE'S HEAD.
IT JUST PEELS
AWAY.



ENZYMES
INSIDE THE BODY'S
CELLS BEGIN EATING
THROUGH THEIR OWN
CELL WALLS, LETTING
THE LIQUID INSIDE
LEAK OUT.



**LIVING
TISSUE** IS A
DIFFERENT MATTER
ALTOGETHER.

LIVING
TISSUE **BLISTERS**
WHEN EXPOSED TO
A BASE. AND THEN IT
SAPONIFIES. FAT
LITERALLY TURNS
TO SOAP.



**STOP
TALKING.**



AND
THEN--

STOP!



WHY?
SQUEAMISH?

YOU DIDN'T
REMOVE MY
COWL.

DIDN'T
WANT TO THINK
YOU WERE DOING
THIS TO A REAL
PERSON, DID
YOU?

OH YEAH?

Hrrnh!

Heh!

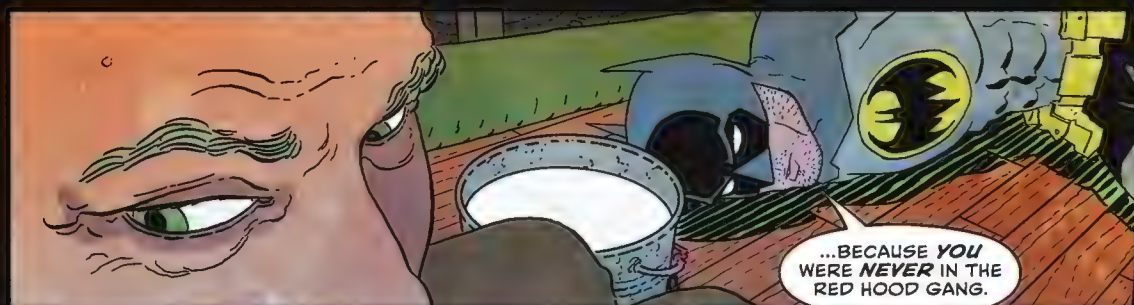
YOU'RE NOT
HARDENED
CRIMINALS.

JUST A
SCARED OLD
MAN AND HIS
GRANDSON,
TERRIFIED OF
MORTALITY.

TRYING TO
LEAVE A MARK,
HOWEVER YOU
CAN.

WHAT WAS
HER NAME,
"GRANDPA"?!?

YOU
DON'T EVEN
KNOW...



...BECAUSE YOU WERE NEVER IN THE RED HOOD GANG.



WHAT?!

THAT'S RIDICULOUS. OF COURSE I--

JUST AS YOU WERE NEVER IN THE MILITARY.



THE HEYDAY OF THE RED HOODS WAS MORE THAN SEVENTY YEARS AGO.

YOU'RE OLD, BUT NOT OLD ENOUGH TO HAVE RUN WITH THEM.



AND THAT GUN IS MILITARY ISSUE. BUT ALL THAT RUST...

YOU'LL NEVER MEET AN OLD SOLDIER, ONE WHO STILL DREAMS ABOUT THE GOOD OLD DAYS, WHO'D LET THEIR WEAPON FALL TO THAT LEVEL OF DISREPAIR.



WHOSE WAS IT?

AN OLD DRINKING BUDDY'S?

OR DID YOU JUST FIND IT, EXPLORING THESE ABANDONED BLOCKS?



HE'S FULL OF IT, ISN'T HE, GRANDPA?

JUST TRYING TO SAVE HIS OWN SKIN.



GRANDPA?

GRANDPA, IT'S OKAY.

WE KNEW. WE LIKED THE STORIES ANYWAY.



I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS.

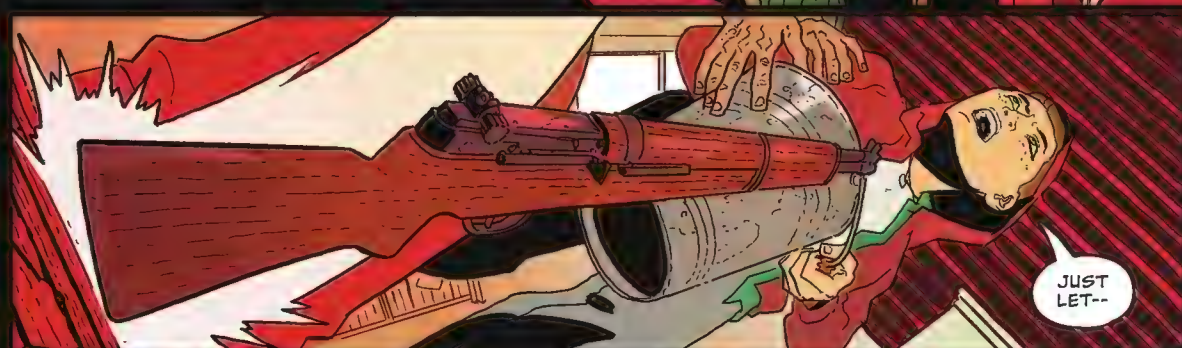
I can handle it.



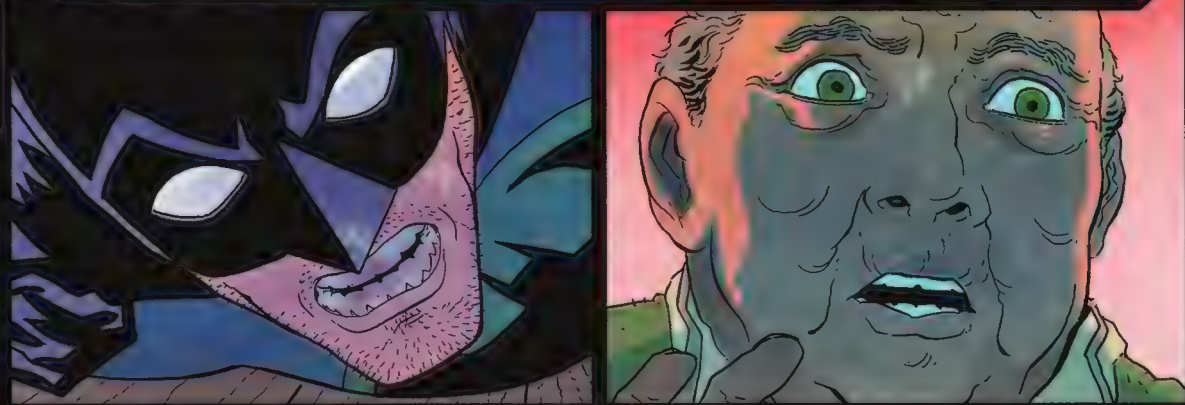
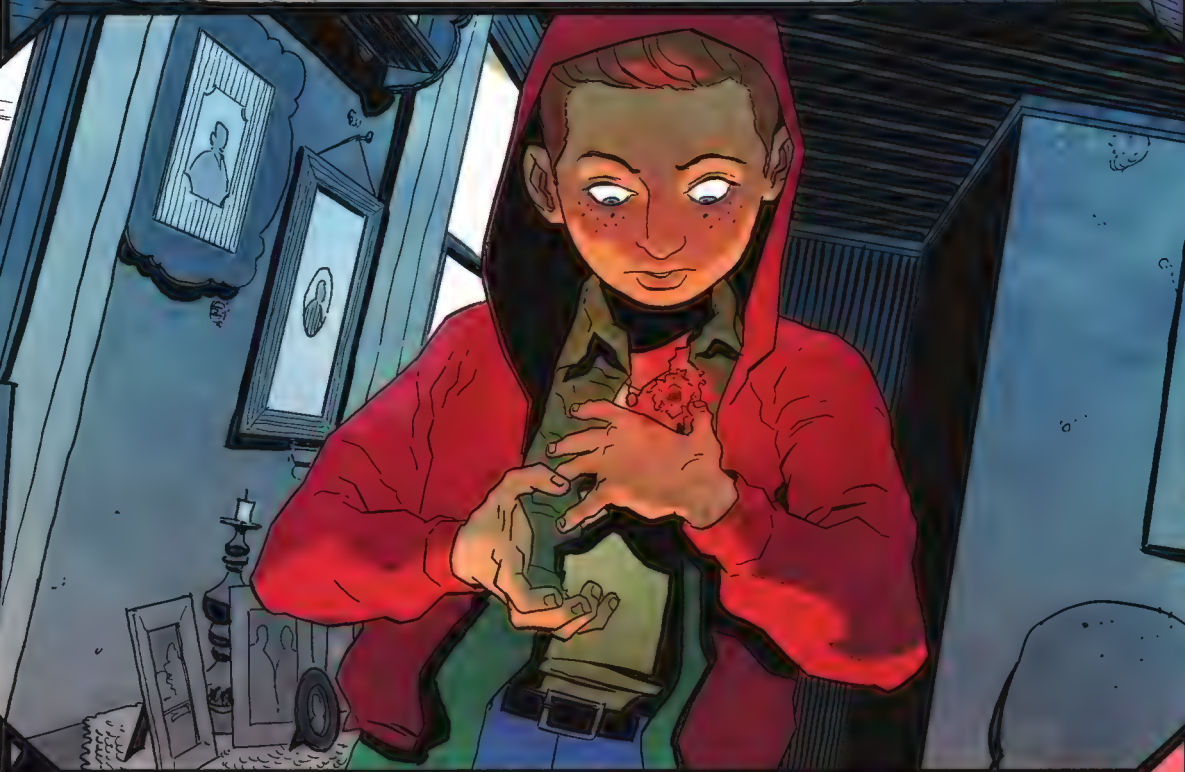
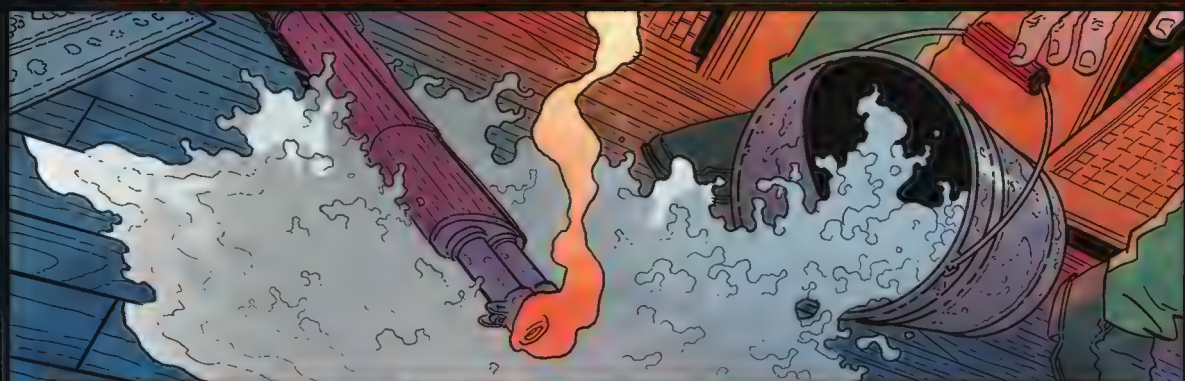
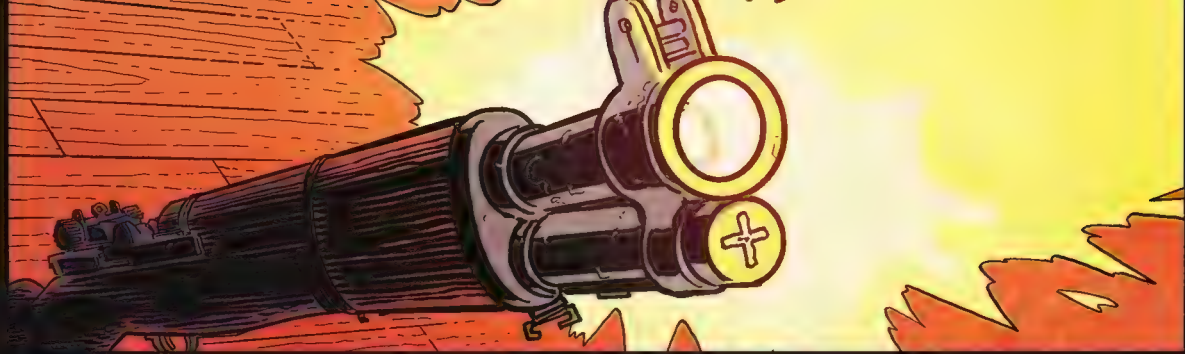
NO! IT'S MINE TO DO!

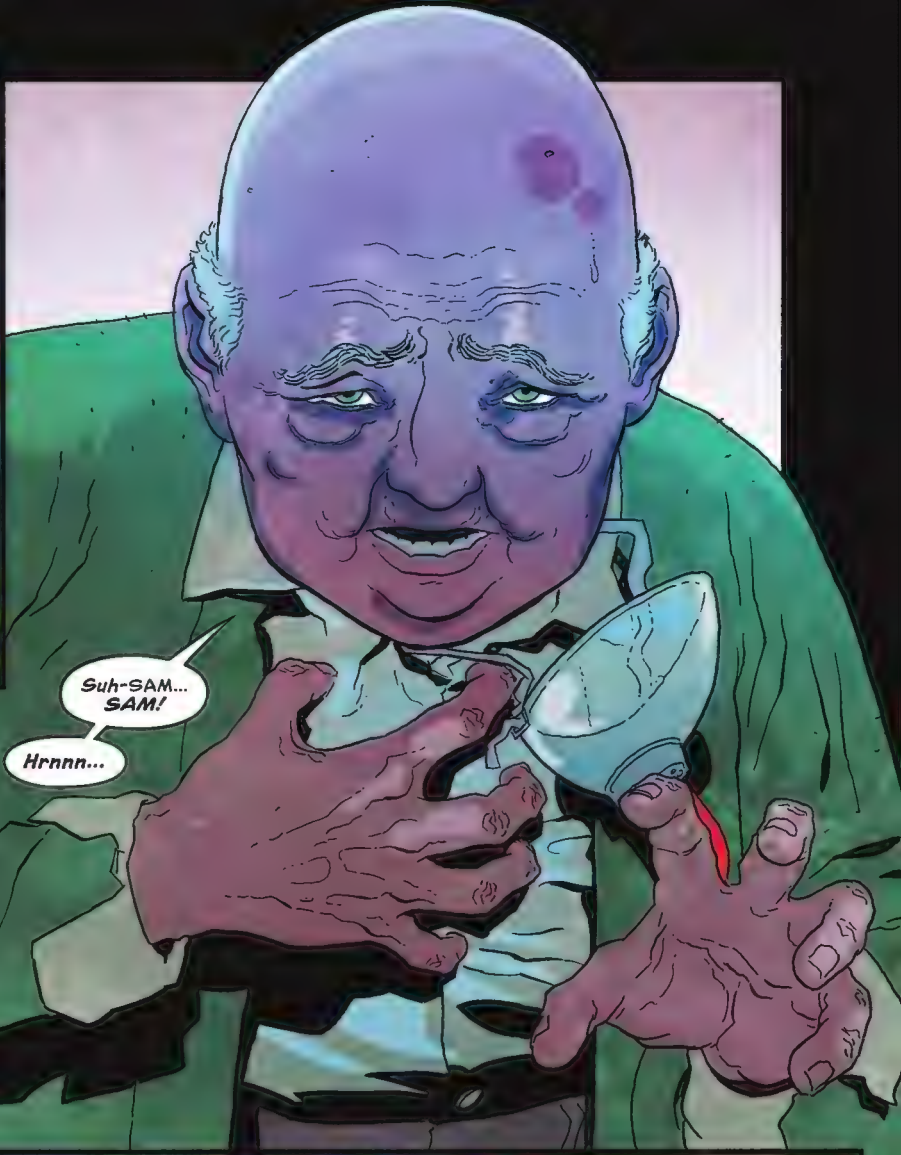
THIS IS ON ME!

GRANDPA, LET GO!



JUST LET--





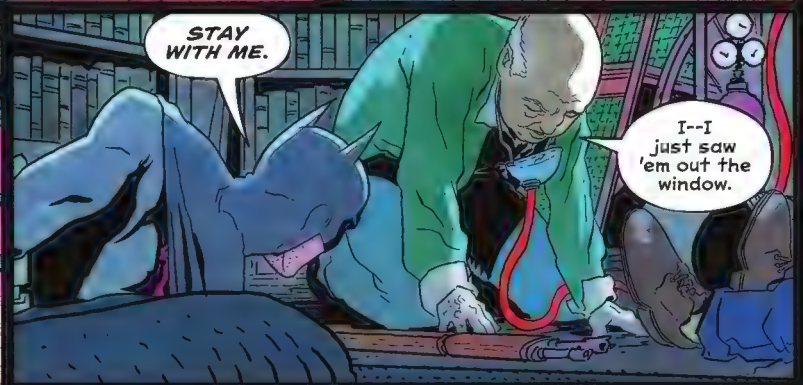
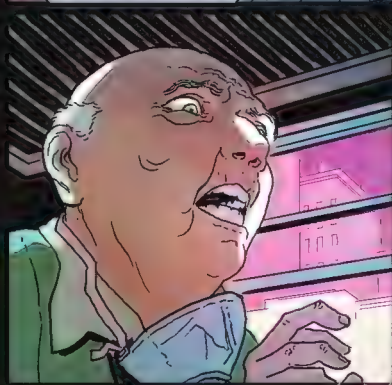
Suh-SAM...
SAM!

Hrnnn...



HEY!
STAY WITH
ME.

SHALLOW
BREATHS. STAY
CONSCIOUS.



STAY
WITH ME.

I--I
just saw
'em out the
window.



I--hrnn--
watched 'em
bury her down
there.

I
didn't--do--
anything.

No one
did.

I
was only--
twelve.

I was
twelve...

I thought
I could do...

...something
good...

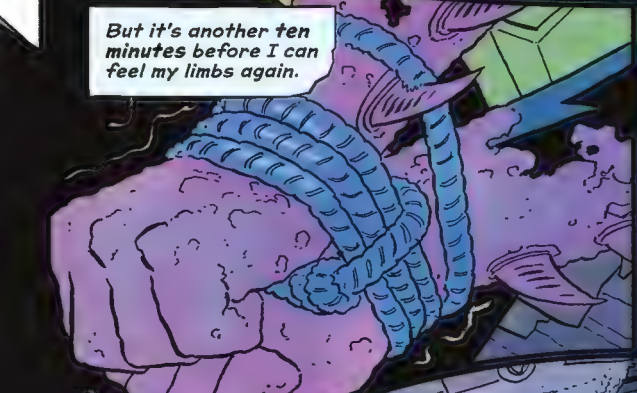
Thought I
could make it a
little better.

How could no
good come from
all--all...

...

A comic book panel showing Batman in a kitchen. He is looking at a man who is sitting on the floor, looking distressed. A woman with long red hair is standing nearby, looking concerned. There is a sink, a stove, and various kitchen items in the background.

I could have saved them. At least one or the other. I could apply CPR. I have adrenaline syringes in my belt.

A close-up of Batman's face, looking down with a somber expression. He is wearing his iconic mask and cowl.

But it's another ten minutes before I can feel my limbs again.

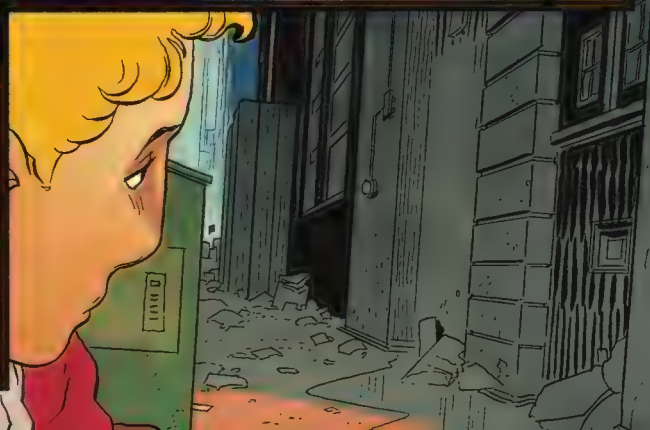
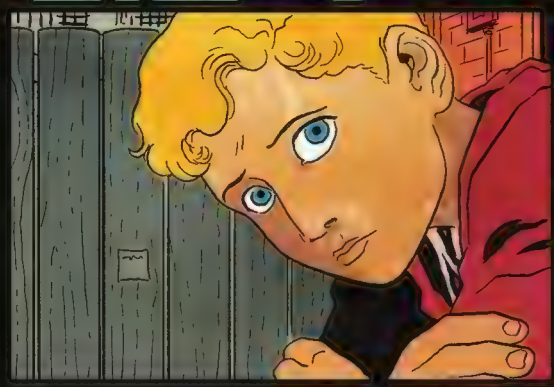
A close-up of Batman's hands, which are covered in a thick, dark, viscous substance. He is looking down at his hands with a determined expression.

Takes me another two to get my hands free.

A large comic book panel showing Batman in a dark, industrial setting. He is holding a man who is lying on the ground, looking unconscious. Batman is looking down at the man with a somber expression. There are pipes and machinery in the background.

Too long for either of them.









ALFRED...

MASTER
BRUCE!

WHAT
HAPPENED?!

THE RED
HOOD GANG
WAS NEVER
BACK.

IT WAS
JUST...JUST
SOME OLD MAN,
TRYING TO MAKE
IT LOOK LIKE
THEY WERE.

HE THOUGHT
IF THE PEOPLE
OF THE ROOKERY
BELIEVED THE GANG
LURKED AROUND
EVERY CORNER,
WATCHING...

...THEY
MIGHT TREAT
EACH OTHER
BETTER.

THEY
MIGHT STOP
HURTING EACH
OTHER.



ALL THOSE
NIGHTS, PATROLLING
THE ROOKERY,
TERRORIZING THE
NEIGHBORHOOD...

I ACHIEVED
NOTHING.

I BROUGHT
NOTHING BUT
HARM.

ONLY
PAIN.



Pareidolia.

Seeing faces or figures where they don't exist. A quirk of evolution.



As infants, we have to be able to recognize the faces of our caregivers. To form a bond...



...but as we grow, we also have to pick out hostiles. Enemy-tribe members in the tree line.



We had to pick up on the slightest hint of a figure, lurking in the dark...



...so we could flee if we were being hunted.



Safer to flee.

Just in case.

DC COMICS PRESENTS
BATMAN: DARK PATTERNS

PAREIDOLIA

PART 3

DAN WATTERS
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Artist

TRÍONA FARRELL
Colorist

FRANK CVETKOVIC
Letterer

ARIANNA TURTURRO
Editor

ROB LEVIN
Group Editor

HAYDEN SHERMAN
Cover Artist

ASHLEY WOOD
Variant Cover Artist

Batman created by
BOB KANE with BILL FINGER

NEXT: THE CHILD OF FIRE

JUSTICE LEAGUE

#1 PREVIEW

WRITER SALADIN AHMED

ARTIST CLAYTON HENRY

COLORIST ARIF PRIANTO

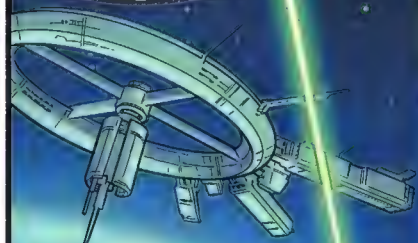
LETTERS LUCAS GATTONI

HEY!
WHOEVER
THE HELL YOU
ARE! ARE YOU
LISTENING?

I'M HEADED
TO YOUR LITTLE
MEETUP POINT. HAVEN'T
TOLD ANYONE ELSE,
LIKE YOU ASKED.

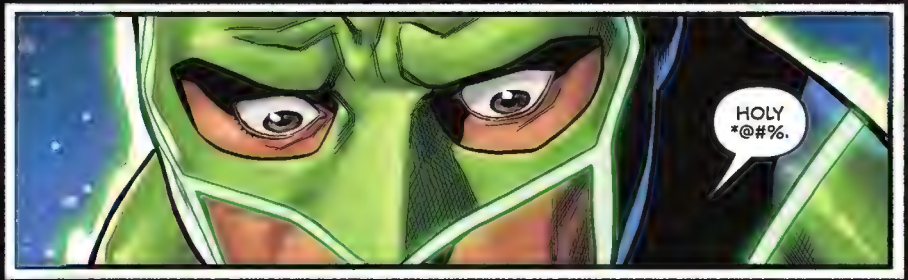
BUT
YOU ALREADY
KNOW THAT. YOUR
MESSAGE MADE IT
CLEAR YOU'VE BEEN
WATCHING ME
FOR A WHILE
NOW.

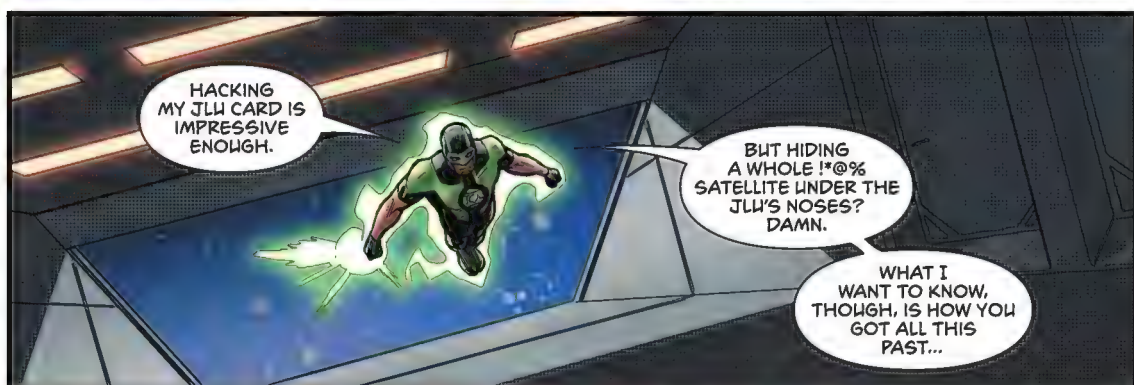
WHICH
MEANS YOU KNOW
I DON'T LIKE BEING
SPIED ON.



BEING A
GREEN LANTERN
TAUGHT ME HOW
TO CONTROL MY
EMOTIONS.

BUT
BEING ARAB
TAUGHT ME ABOUT
SURVEILLANCE.
SO WHEN SOMEONE
GETS ALL UP IN MY
BUSINESS, I START
SEEING...





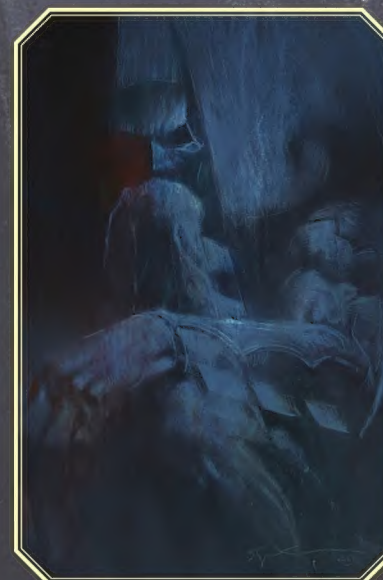




Variant cover by
JOCK



Variant cover by
FRANK MILLER



Variant cover by
BILL SIENKIEWICZ



Artist spotlight
variant cover by
BRUNO REDONDO



1:25 variant cover by
DAVE JOHNSON

A 56-page anniversary issue featuring all-new, timeless stories by
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GREG RUCKA and **ÁLVARO MARTÍNEZ BUENO**
MARIKO TAMAKI and **AMANCAY NAHUEL PAN**
DAN WATTERS and **BILL SIENKIEWICZ**



JUSTICE LEAGUE RED #1

INTERVIEW WITH SALADIN AHMED

Step into the shadows of the DC Universe with *Justice League Red*, a high-stakes new series that uncovers the most secretive chapter of the All In saga yet. Writer Saladin Ahmed shares what makes this black ops story so unique, the hidden dangers ahead, and why *Justice League Red* is unlike anything readers have seen before.

With *Justice League Red*, what excited you most about building this hidden corner of the DC Universe?

Justice League Red begins with a familiar premise—a mismatched group of rough-around-the-edges characters get tapped for the jobs no one else can do. But what's been really exciting with this book is the way we've been allowed to turn the usual 90s-era *black ops* conventions on their head to tell a story for our own time.

Automated authority, omnipresent surveillance, hyperrealistic disinformation—these are part of our everyday lives now, and we're all still figuring out how to live in that world. I think people are ready to see a robot and a Kryptonian and a dead guy struggling with the same crap, even as they punch monsters and save the planet.

***Justice League Red* introduces a covert lineup of heroes unlike any we've seen before. What made you choose these specific characters for the team?**

There are carefully thought out in-story reasons Tornado chooses each member of the squad. But on the meta level, putting together a superhero team is one of my absolute favorite jobs in this business. Negotiating the personalities, motivations, power sets, visuals, and voices is like finding the right blend of spices for a meal. Each one needs to make its flavor sing without drowning out the others. And of course, all of these elements will play off one another for maximum drama!

What drew you to centering the story around Red Tornado?

Robot stories ask us what it means to be human. Superhero stories ask us what it means to be a good person. Red Tornado's always been a fascinating character because he sits

at the intersection of these questions. But as algorithms, artificial intelligence, and machine learning control more and more of our lives, I'd argue stories like Tornado's have gone from fascinating to essential.

What kind of dangers are we dealing with here, and how high are the stakes?

The stakes in JLR are not just high—they're existential! One of the DC Universe's biggest threats is centrally involved, and things get dire for the team, even with some heavy hitters on the roster.

But I'm also excited about the personal stakes in this book! Simon Baz, Power Girl, Cyborg—all of these characters have intense personal stuff that's begging to be scrutinized, and this series is about what happens when that scrutiny gets out of control.

What has that collaboration been like with artist, Clayton Henry?

Clayton is sort of the best of both worlds—a consummate professional who can still be genuinely inspiring and surprising. Despite the black ops premise, there's this bright 1980s echo of José Luis García-López's clean lines in many of these pages, and that energy is just a thrill.

Without giving too much away, are there any standout moments you're especially excited for fans to experience?

Yes! But I want to keep as mum as possible because secrets and lies are sort of at the core of the book, and...

**DON'T MISS
JUSTICE
LEAGUE RED #1,
ON SALE MONTHLY!**



Justice League Red #1
main cover by Clayton Henry



Justice League Red #1
variant cover by Carmine Di Giandomenico



Justice League Red #1
variant cover by Christian Ward

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The Last Kryptonian-DCP

